

of fact, that this plan was proposed with the thought in mind that it would attract a certain number of voters from various ethnic communities, that they would support our efforts and the efforts of the party in the White House, my party.

Well, I do not know, Mr. Speaker, if that is true or not, but I will tell my colleagues this. Even if it were true that we would find a huge number of Hispanics in this country changing their attitude about the Republican Party and, therefore, voting for us in massive numbers, I do not know whether that is true or not but it does not matter. We should not make laws in this country for specific groups in order to entice them to support us, our party or our candidacy.

□ 2310

We should make laws that benefit all members of our society.

I believe with all my heart, Mr. Speaker, that we can in fact entice, encourage, explain our position. We can provide an explanation of who we are as Republicans, let us say, explain the principles upon which our party is founded, principles of individual freedom, individual responsibility, and I believe we can make a case for someone to become a Republican on that basis. Certainly the Democrats are free to do the same thing. But that is the free marketplace of ideas. That is the whole concept behind this government, that people should be encouraged to support us one way or the other because of who we are, not because we make a law especially for them, not just because their ethnic group or their sexual preference or whatever. We have already divided this country up in so many ways, it is hard to really understand who we are as a Nation as opposed to some balkanized country in Eastern Europe.

We have divided ourselves into so many camps, Mr. Speaker, with so many different interests. We have constructed a political system that is supposed to now sort of accentuate these differences, but this is not healthy for this democracy, not healthy for this republic, and it is certainly the wrong reason to make law.

Mr. Speaker, the other day we had an event in Denver. A gentleman came up to me at this event and he told me a story. This was an elderly gentleman. He told me about an acquaintance of his who was a Filipino by birth. He had fought against the Japanese in the Filipino resistance in the Second World War. He eventually became associated with and worked in some capacity or other with American military in the Second World War. He was wounded in that process. After the war, this gentleman, after having, remember, fought the Japanese, supported the United States in that endeavor, fought on the side of the United States, fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen in the Philippines, this gentleman applied for citizenship to the United

States. Well, he waited one year and one year grew to two and two grew to three and eventually it was 20 years that went by before this gentleman, remember, a person who had put his life on the line, who had fought shoulder to shoulder with American servicemen, it was 20 years before he was allowed to come into the United States as a legal citizen. Not too long thereafter, I think 2 or 3 years after he was here unfortunately, he died. He had waited most of his life to come to the United States and to do so legally took him, as I say, 20 years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, what do we say to his relatives? What do we say to his memory? If we suggest, not only suggest but propose a law that would give what he so desperately sought, access to this country legally, if it would give it to millions of people who snuck into the country, who did not fight in any way, had no greater claim to come into this Nation than anyone else, except that they wanted the benefits of this life, of this society. What do we say to people like that? How can we look them in the face and tell them that they live in a just society?

Mr. Speaker, there are literally hundreds of millions of people like this gentleman who would give anything to come to the United States and who have in fact applied for entrance into this country. But we have a quota for people from certain areas and we establish how many can come in, supposedly. If you are going to do it legally, you wait. That is exactly the way it should be. You do it by the rules. It is a travesty to offer amnesty to people who ignored these laws. Again, I am not blaming them individually, but I am also saying that it has not been in our interest to reward them for that action.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that massive immigration into this Nation in the numbers we are talking about is one of the most serious domestic policy issues we face. It is extremely difficult to get many of my colleagues to stand up here and talk about this because there is a fear that if you do so, you will be branded as a racist, a xenophobe, a variety of relatively unpleasant things that no one likes to be called. Certainly I do not consider myself to be any of those things. I believe that I am pro-immigrant, having come from an immigrant family. I believe that the United States has been made richer in many, many ways by the contributions of immigrant families from the time our Nation was founded. I am not against immigration. We can handle a certain number of people in here every year. But we cannot handle the millions and millions of people who are streaming into this Nation and who are waiting to stream into the Nation.

What if we really did eliminate the border? What if we really said, "Well, if you want to come, come. Come on ahead." Does anybody wonder about what would happen? How many hundreds of millions of people would

stream into the country? Could we really handle this? Could we really provide for them and for ourselves and for our children the kind of quality of life that we have come to build and expect in this country? I do not think so. I do not believe anybody believes that.

So I ask to be rational in our approach to immigration. I believe that most of the immigrants who have recently arrived in the United States legally would agree with me, that that is the way it should be done. I believe most of the immigrants here today would say that the people coming in should not be rewarded for that kind of behavior, when they themselves, the people who came here legally, had to go through all of the hoops and did it right. So I do not think we are unique in calling for a complete reversal of this peculiar policy that has been proposed to give amnesty. I hope that we will once again regain control of our borders, I hope that we will establish guest worker programs that will satisfy the needs of business and industry in the United States, those that tell us day after day—they tell me, anyway—that they would go out of business if they did not have the opportunity to use guest workers, but in reality all of that can be handled through a guest worker program.

□ 2320

We do not have to rely on illegals in order to serve us, because the illegals themselves are exploited more often than not by these employers. They are paid less, they are ill-used, they are ill-treated, because they know that if you are here illegally, you are afraid to turn anybody in. This is not a good deal.

Illegal immigration is not a good deal for the immigrant, it is not a good deal for the United States, and it should not be rewarded by amnesty.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ENGEL (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for July 23 on account of a death in the family.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for July 23 on account of the funeral of a close family friend.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

The following Members (at the request of Mr. ENGEL) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

The following Members (at the request of Mr. TANCREDO) to revise and